means for detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of

5   one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and are also

conveyed by said data medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies

respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as

positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position

10   information also being conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said

reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data

and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

15   means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said

protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Three Times Amended). A reproduction protection method providing

reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data

medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of one or more

5   predetermined data portions within said main data and are also conveyed by said

data medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective

positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at

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which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information

10   also being conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction

apparatus operating on said main data;

defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said

apparatus protection data in combination; and

15   executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said

protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Three Times Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a

reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction

apparatus, characterized in that:

said data medium further transfers medium protection data which are

5   specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and

protection position information which specifies respective positions of said

predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply

said reproduction protection;

said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are

10   specific to said reproduction apparatus;

said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in

combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data

by said reproduction apparatus, and

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said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said

15   degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data transferred by said

medium and said apparatus protection data, and in accordance with said protection

position information transferred by said medium.

21 (Three Times Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding

protection, for operating on information which is transferred by a medium and

which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus

comprising:

5   means for detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or

more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also

transferred by said medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies

respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as

10   positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position

information also being transferred by said medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said

decoding apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said

15   apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said

protection level and said protection position information.

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22 (Three Times Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred by a medium and which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5   detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred by said medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at 10   which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus 15   protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

Marked Up Copy of Rewritten Claims

18 (Three Times Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are <u>specific to each of</u>

5 <u>one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and are</u> also conveyed by said data medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies [a position] <u>respective positions of said predetermined data portions</u> within said main data <u>as positions</u> at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection

10 position information also being conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

15 means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Three Times Amended). A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the method comprising the steps of:

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detecting medium protection data which are <u>specific to each of one or more</u>

5 <u>predetermined data portions within said main data and are</u> also conveyed by said

data medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies [a position]

<u>respective positions of said predetermined data portions</u> within said main data <u>as</u>

<u>positions</u> at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position

10 information also being conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction

apparatus operating on said main data;

defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said

apparatus protection data in combination; and

15 executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said

protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Three Times Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a

reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction

apparatus, characterized in that:

said data medium further transfers medium protection data which are

5 specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and

protection position information which specifies [a position] <u>respective positions of</u>

<u>said predetermined data portions</u> within said main data <u>as positions</u> at which <u>to</u>

<u>apply said</u> reproduction protection [is to be applied];

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said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are

10   specific to said reproduction apparatus;

said medium protection data and <u>said</u> apparatus protection data in

combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data

by said reproduction apparatus, and

said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said

15   degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data [and apparatus

protection data] transferred by said medium <u>and said apparatus protection data,</u>

and in accordance with said protection position information transferred by said

medium.

21 (Three Times Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding

protection, for operating on information which is transferred [through] <u>by</u> a

medium and <u>which</u> comprises main data [which are] to be decoded and protection

data, the apparatus comprising:

5   means for detecting said protection data<u>, which are specific to each of one or</u>

<u>more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also</u>

<u>transferred by said medium;</u>

means for detecting protection position information which specifies [a

position] <u>respective positions of said predetermined data portions</u> within said main

10   data <u>as positions</u> at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection

position information also being transferred by said medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said

15 apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said

protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Three Times Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred [through] by a medium and which comprises main data [which are] to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred by said medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies [a position] respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as

10 positions at which to apply said decoding protection [is to be applied], said protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus

15 protection data, in combination; and

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executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection

level and said protection position information.

38 (New). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

39 (New). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

40 (New). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

41 (New). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

42 (New). The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

43 (New). The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents

one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

44 (New). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

45 (New). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

46 (New). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

47 (New). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.